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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/579,481

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Martin Bunce

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EXAMINER

YOUNG, RACHEL T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3771

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/23/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/579,481

Applicant(s)

BUNCE, MARTIN

Examiner

RACHEL T. YOUNG

Art Unit

3771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 10/12/10. As directed by the amendment: claims 1 and 4 have been amended, claims 5 and 8 have been canceled, and no new claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 and 6-7 are presently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pollet et al. (2004/0089292) in view of Dehaven (6,003,205) and Wachinski et al. (4,637,528).

Regarding claim 1, in fig. 5a Pollet discloses an inhaler for dispensing doses of medicament from a container under user activation (Page 2, para 28, ll. 11-13, Page 1, para 3) and the inhaler includes a body 3 including a mouthpiece 7 and a cap 9 which can be placed in a position to substantially occlude the mouthpiece (fig. 5a) and the cap is attached to the body by an integrally moulded strap (10, Page 3, para 49, ll. 4-6, Page 2, para 32) which pivots from the body, the body having a base having contours and the

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strap underlying the body and substantially following the contours of the base (fig. 5a), and the cap must translate away from the mouthpiece prior to the pivoting of the strap (fig. 5a-5c). Pollet is silent regarding that the cap can slide on the strap and the cap having a lug. However, in figures 1 and 3 Dehaven teaches a cap 22 with lug 25 that slides on a strap 16. Cap 22 must slide along groove 19 in order to allow the strap 16 to pivot for replacement or removal of the drink 11 being contained. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Pollet's cap and strap with a cap that slides on a strap with a lug, as taught by Dehaven, for the purpose of providing a more basic strap that doesn't need to be stretched. The modified Pollet discloses a lug, but is silent regarding that the lug prevents removal of the cap from the strap. However, Wachinski teaches an aerosol medicament dispenser with lug 23 in fig. 8 that slides along groove 19 and is maintained within the groove by portions 24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the modified Pollet's lug with wider portions, as taught by Wachinski, for the purpose of preventing removal of the lug from the groove (Col. 4, ll. 39-42).

Regarding claims 2-3, in fig. 3 and 6 Pollet discloses that the mouthpiece 7 projects from the body 3 and that the cap both occludes the mouthpiece and overlies the projection of the mouthpiece (fig. 5a).

Regarding claim 4, Pollet discloses that the inhaler is a plastic material (Page 2, para 31)

Regarding claims 6-7, Pollet discloses that the container is pressurized (Page 2, para 28, ll. 11-13, Page 1, para 3), and that the inhaler is a metered dose inhaler (Page 2, para 28, ll. 11-13, Page 1, para 3)

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 10/12/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues on page 6, 1st paragraph that Dehaven's caps 12 or 20 do not occlude a mouthpiece, however the only modification being made to Pollet's cap in fig. 5a is to add the slide tab 25 and groove 19 of Dehaven's strap to Pollet's strap to allow the cap to slide along a strap. This modification would still allow the modified Pollet's cap to occlude the mouthpiece and would still require Pollet's cap to translate away from the body before pivoting.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RACHEL T. YOUNG whose telephone number is (571)270-1481. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-thurs 7 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on 571-272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RACHEL T YOUNG/
Examiner, Art Unit 3771

/Justine R Yu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3771